



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

City Celebrates African American History Month with Exhibit, Presentations

Gaithersburg, MD (January 16, 2019) An art exhibit, lectures and an official proclamation highlight the City of Gaithersburg's celebration of African American History Month.

Strength, Beauty & Sisterhood

In recognition of African American History Month, the City of Gaithersburg Multicultural Affairs Committee presents "Strength, Beauty and Sisterhood," an art exhibit highlighting the works of well-known local artist Sandra Davis. The body of work in this exhibit illustrates the strength and beauty of African American women as they are depicted working and dancing in sisterhood. Davis' use of paper gives the viewer a glimpse of how collaboration of color and texture create an image. The exhibit runs January 18 through March 11, 2019, at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg. The public is invited to meet the artist during a free Artist Reception on Thursday, January 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Official Proclamation by the Mayor & City Council

A formal proclamation designating February 2019 as "African American History Month" in the City of Gaithersburg will be presented during the Mayor and City Council meeting at City Hall on Monday, February 4. Freddie A. Brown, Sr., Youth Mentor, will receive the proclamation. MAC promotes understanding, respect and appreciation of the many cultures in the City, heightening awareness of our similarities and differences in order to improve interactions between and among members of these various cultural communities. City Hall is located at 31 S. Summit Avenue in Gaithersburg.

The World War I Experience for African American Soldiers

Military historian Lieutenant Colonel Roger Cunningham (USA-retired) will explore the experience of African American soldiers in World War I during a Museum After Hours talk on Sunday, February 10 at the Gaithersburg Community Museum. Many African American men saw World War I as an opportunity to gain respect through military service. They volunteered and were drafted, but even in war segregation determined where and how they served. A tasting with Shafa Blends, a family-owned tea and spice shop in Gaithersburg, takes place at 3 p.m. followed by the talk at 3:30. Admission is \$10. Purchase tickets online.

My Martin Luther King Story: Inspired to be an Inspiration

Freddie A. Brown, Sr. will discuss his experiences as a driver for Martin Luther King, Jr., as a scientist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and as a mentor to local youth. While at NIH, Brown became a key figure in the NIH Minority Student Faculty Partnership Program. The discussion takes place on Tuesday, February 26 at 12:45 p.m. at the Benjamin Gaither Center, 80A Bureau Drive. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Celebrated annually in the United States during the month of February, African American History Month was started in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. He sought to bring national attention to the important contributions African Americans made to the history of the United States. Woodson chose February because it includes the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes and Abraham Lincoln.

For more information about the Multicultural Affairs Committee, visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.